The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled):

2. (Cancelled):

3. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the second phase is the last 10 days of said at least 28 day period.

4. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the gestagen is
gestodene,
progesterone,
levonorgestrel,
cyproterone acetate,
chloromadinone acetate,
drospirenone (dihydrospirorenone),
norethisterone,
norethisterone acetate,
norgestimate,
desogestrel,
3-ketodesogestrel,
dienogest,
or a mixture thereof.

5. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the gestagen is
levonorgestrol at 0.05-0.2 mg/day,
gestodene at 0.05-0.15 mg/day,
or another gestagen in a bioequivalent dose.

6. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the gestagen is

administered orally and/or transdermally.

7. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the natural estrogen is administered orally and/or transdermally.

8. (Cancelled):

9. (Cancelled):

10. (Cancelled):

11. (Cancelled):

12. (Cancelled):

13. (Cancelled):

14. (Previously Presented): A method of contraception in a female mammal, comprising administering to said mammal a gestagen over a period of at least 28 days, wherein said period has a first phase and a second phase,

wherein said first phase consists essentially of administering an ovulation-inhibiting amount of a gestagen, and said second phase comprises administering an ovulation-inhibiting amount of a gestagen and a natural estrogen in an amount effective to achieve regular menstrual-like bleeding,

wherein said second phase is the last 5 to 10 days of said period and said first phase is the remainder of said period.

15. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 14, wherein said period is 28 days.

16. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 14, wherein in the second phase, the

gestagen and natural estrogen are administered in combination.

17. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 14, wherein in the second phase, the gestagen and natural estrogen are administered separately.

18. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the female mammal is human.

19. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the gestagen is administered orally and the natural estrogen is administered transdermally.

20. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the gestagen is administered transdermally and the natural estrogen is administered orally.

21. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the gestagen and the natural estrogen are administered transdermally.

22. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the gestagen is levonorgestrel or gestodene.

23. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the gestagen is levonorgestrel in a dose of 0.05-0.2 mg/day, or
gestodene in a dose of 0.05-0.15 mg/day.

24. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the gestagen and natural estrogen are each independently administered locally, topically, enterally, transdermally and/or parenterally.

25. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein gestodene, levonorgestrel, desogestrel, 3-ketodesogestrol or a mixture thereof is administered transdermally, and estradiol is administered transdermally at a dose of 0.025-0.25 mg of release/day.

26. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 16, wherein
during the first phase, at least 18-23 first daily dosage units of a gestagen in an ovulation-inhibiting dose are administered, and
during the second phase, at least 5 to 10 second daily dosage units of a gestagen in an ovulation-inhibiting dose plus a natural estrogen are administered.

27. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 26, wherein 28 daily dosage units are administered; during the first phase, 18 to 23 of said first daily dosage units of a gestagen are administered; and during the second phase, 5 to 10 of said second daily dosage units of a gestagen plus a natural estrogen are administered.

28. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 26, wherein during the second phase, 10 daily dosage units of said gestagen plus estrogen are administered.

29. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein the gestagen in each phase, independently, is
gestodene,
progesterone,
levonorgestrel,
cyproterone acetate,
chloromadinone acetate,
drospirenone (dihydrospirorenone),
norethisterone,
norethisterone acetate,
norgestimate,
desogestrel,
3-ketodesogestrel,
dienogest,
or a mixture thereof.

30. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein the gestagen in each phase is, independently,
levonorgestrel in a dose of 0.1 mg/day,
gestodene in a dose of 0.075 mg/day, or
another gestagen in a bioequivalent dosage.

31. (Cancelled):

32. (Cancelled):

33. (Cancelled):

34. (Cancelled):

35. (Cancelled):

36. (Currently Amended): A method of contraception in a female mammal, comprising administering to said mammal a daily steroidal preparation over a period of at least 28 days, wherein

during the last 5-10 days of said period said mammal is daily administered a gestagen in an ovulation-inhibiting dose and a natural estrogen, and

during the rest of said period said mammal is daily administered a steroidal preparation consisting essentially of a gestagen in an ovulation-inhibiting dose.

37. (Currently Amended): A method of contraception in a female mammal, ~~daily~~ comprising administering daily to said mammal a ~~daily~~ steroidal preparation over a period of at least 28 days, wherein

during the last 5-10 days of said period said mammal is daily administered a gestagen in an ovulation-inhibiting dose and a natural estrogen in an amount which is effective for achieving

regular menstrual-like bleeding, and

during the rest of said period said mammal is daily administered a steroidal preparation consisting essentially of gestagen in an ovulation-inhibiting dose.

38. (Withdrawn): A method of providing contraception in a female mammal comprising administering a daily steroid preparation to said female mammal for a period of 28 - 84 days and said period has a first phase and a second phase, wherein the second phase is the last 5 to 10 days of said period and said first phase is the remainder of said period,

wherein during said first phase a gestagen is daily administered in an ovulation inhibiting amount without an estrogen, and during said second phase a natural estrogen and an ovulation-inhibiting amount of a gestagen and are administered daily.

39. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 38, wherein the second phase is the last 8 to 10 days of said 28 - 84 day period.

40. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 38, wherein said period is 28 days.

41. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 38, wherein said period is 56 days.

42. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 38, wherein said period is 84 days.

43. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 38, wherein the gestagen is

gestodene,

progesterone,

levonorgestrel,

cyproterone acetate,
chloromadinone acetate,
drospirenone (dihydrospirorenone),
norethisterone,
norethisterone acetate,
norgestimate,
desogestrel,
3-ketodesogestrel,
dienogest,
or a mixture thereof.

44. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 38, wherein the gestagen is levonorgestrol which is administered at a dosage of 0.05-0.2 mg/day or another gestagen administered at ~~in~~ a bioequivalent dose.

45. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 38, wherein the gestagen is gestodene which is administered at a dosage of 0.05-0.15 mg/day or another gestagen administered at ~~in~~ a bioequivalent dose.

46. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 38, wherein the gestagen is administered orally and/or transdermally.

47. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 38, wherein the natural estrogen is administered orally and/or transdermally.

48. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 46 ~~47~~, wherein the natural estrogen is administered orally and/or transdermally.

49. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 38, wherein in the second phase, the gestagen and natural estrogen are administered in combination.

50. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 38, wherein in the second phase, the gestagen and natural estrogen are administered separately.

51. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 38, wherein the female mammal is human.

52. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 38, wherein the gestagen is administered transdermally and the natural estrogen is administered orally.

53. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 38, wherein the gestagen is levonorgestrel or gestodene.

54. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 38, wherein the gestagen is levonorgestrel in a dose of 0.05-0.2 mg/day or gestodene in a dose of 0.05-0.15 mg/day.

55. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 38, wherein gestodene, levonorgestrel, desogestrel, 3-ketodesogestrol or a mixture thereof is administered transdermally, and estradiol is administered transdermally at a dose of 0.025-0.25 mg of release/day.

56. (Withdrawn): A method of providing contraception in a female mammal comprising administering a daily steroid preparation to said female mammal for a period of 28 - 84 days, said period having a first phase and a second phase, wherein the second phase is the last 5 to 10 days of said period and said first phase is the remainder of said period,

wherein during said first phase a gestagen is daily administered in an ovulation inhibiting amount and the daily amount of gestagen administered remains the same throughout the period, and during said second phase a natural estrogen and an ovulation-inhibiting amount of a gestagen are administered daily.

57. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 14, wherein the gestagen is administered orally and / the natural estrogen is administered orally.

58. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 36, wherein the gestagen is administered orally and / the natural estrogen is administered orally.

59. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 37, wherein the gestagen is administered orally and / the natural estrogen is administered orally.

60. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 38, wherein the gestagen is administered orally and / the natural estrogen is administered orally.

61. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 56, wherein the gestagen is administered orally and / the natural estrogen is administered orally.

62. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 14, wherein there is a menstrual bleeding at the end of said period.

63. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 36, wherein there is a menstrual bleeding at the end of said period.

64. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 37, wherein there is a menstrual bleeding at the end of said period.

65. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 38, wherein there is a menstrual bleeding at the end of said period.

66. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 56, wherein there is a menstrual bleeding at the end of said period.

67. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 14, wherein the second phase is the last 8 to 10 days of said period.

68. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 14, wherein said period is 28-84 days.

69. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 14, wherein said period is 28-56 days.

70. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 14, wherein said method consists essentially of administering to said mammal, during said first phase, an ovulation-inhibiting amount of a gestagen, and, during said second phase, administering an ovulation-inhibiting amount of a gestagen and a natural estrogen in an amount effective to achieve regular menstrual-like bleeding.

71. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 70, wherein said natural estrogen is estradiol and said gestagen is
gestodene,
progesterone,
levonorgestrel,
cyproterone acetate,
chloromadinone acetate,
drospirenone (dihydrospirorenone),
norethisterone,
norethisterone acetate,
norgestimate,
desogestrel,
3-ketodesogestrel,
dienogest,
or a mixture thereof.

72. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 70, wherein said period is 28-84 days.

73. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 70, wherein said period is 28-56 days.

74. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 71, wherein said first phase is 18-23 days.

75. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 71, wherein said period is 28-84 days.

76. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 71, wherein said period is 28-56 days.

77. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 71, wherein said first phase is 18-23 days.